

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 08571 160958Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 /044 W  
----- 025374 /12

R 160740Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 950  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 8571

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SY  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN BRIG. COMMENTS ON RECENT COUP ATTEMPT

1. REGULAR EMBASSY SOURCE WAS TOLD BY SYRIAN BRIG., IDENTIFIED BY SOURCE AS COMMANDER OF QATANAH MILITARY CAMP AND STRONGLY PRO-ASAD SUNNI MUSLIM, THAT GROUP WHICH ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFUL COUP AGAINST ASAD REGIME INCLUDED ELEMENTS OF SYRIAN AIR FORCE AND MILITARY UNITS IN CENTRAL SYRIA. BRIQ. SAID THAT AN AIR FORCE BRIG. WAS AMONG THOSE ARRESTED BY SECURITY SERVICES.

2. BRIG. ADDED, ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THAT AIM OF ORGANIZATION WAS REPLACEMENT OF BAATH PARTY WITH NEW POLITICAL

PARTY WHICH WOULD BE CALLED "ARAB LIBERATION PARTY." BRIG. CLAIMED THAT PAMPHLETS OUTLINING POLITICAL PROGRAM OF NEW PARTY INTENDED FOR DISTRIBUTION ONCE COUP SUCCEEDED HAD BEEN SEIZED BY AUTHORITIES. BRIG. ALSO SAID THAT REGIME HAD PICKED UP DETAILS OF PLANNED COUP FROM "MORE THAT ONE" INFORMANT AMONG CONSPIRATORS. SOURCE REMARKED THAT BRIG. HAD TOLD HIM DAMASCUS RADIO HAD GONE OFF AIR FOR ONE-HALF HOUR DURING "ID AL-ADHA HOLIDAY, AND BRIG. SPECULATED THAT PART OF GROUP MAY HAVE MANAGED TO CLOSE IT TEMPORARILY. HE ADDED THOUGH THAT NORMAL PROGRAMMING

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RESUMED AFTER THIS SHORT BREAK.

3. SOURCE THEN ADDED SOME PERSONAL SPECULATION REGARDING AFFAIR. HE REFERRED TO DAMASCUS RADIO BROADCASTS THAT UNITS OF SYRIAN AIR FORCE AND AIR DEFENSE HAD CARRIED OUT MILITARY MANEUVERS DEC. 14 AND THAT DEFMIN TLASS HAD VISITED MILITARY ACADEMY AT HOMS SAME DAY, AND SAID MANEUVERS DESIGNED TO PUBLICIZE LOYALTY OF MILITARY TO REGIME. CONCERNING TLASS VISIT, DURING WHICH HE MET WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT RANKS TO REVIEW "ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION SINCE 1916," SOURCE SPECULATED THAT TLASS WAS MOST PROBABLY INVOLVED IN CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION OF COUP ATTEMPT. SOURCE ALSO SPECULATED THAT REGIME MAY RELEASE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT COUP ATTEMPT, PERHAPS DURING TRIAL OF ACCUSED "SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR EXECUTION."  
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, PLOTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, SY, (ASAD, HAFIZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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